

IC4. CARPET CLEANING

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

A BMP is a technique, measure or structural control that is used for a given set of conditions to improve the quality of the stormwater runoff in a cost effective manner¹. The minimum required BMPs for this activity are outlined in the box to the right. Implementation of pollution prevention/good housekeeping measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures. Proper employee training is key to the success of BMP implementation.

The BMPs outlined in this fact sheet target the following pollutants:

Targeted Constituents	
Sediment	x
Nutrients	
Floatable Materials	
Metals	
Bacteria	
Oil & Grease	
Organics & Toxicants	x
Pesticides	
Oxygen Demanding	

MINIMUM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

- Discharge wash water to sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Stencil storm drains

Training

- Train employees on these BMPs, storm water discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.
- Provide on-going employee training in pollution prevention.

Provided below are specific procedures associated with each of the minimum BMPs along with procedures for additional BMPs that should be considered if this activity takes place at a facility located near a sensitive waterbody. In order to meet the requirements for medium and high priority facilities, the owners/operators must select, install and maintain appropriate BMPs on site. Since the selection of the appropriate BMPs is a site-specific process, the types and numbers of additional BMPs will vary for each facility.

Discharge wash water to sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.

- Never discharge wash water to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. Either:
 - empty the spent cleaning fluid tank into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at the service provider's home base or
 - arrange with the customer to discharge into a toilet or utility sink on their premises.
- Check the local wastewater authority's requirements for discharge.
- Filter wash water before discharging to the sanitary sewer to avoid clogging pipes. Dispose of filtered material in the garbage, provided the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous materials.
- These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled "nontoxic" and "biodegradable."

¹ EPA " Preliminary Data Summary of Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices"

Training

1. Train employees on these BMPs, storm water discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.
2. Train employees on proper spill containment and cleanup.
 - Establish training that provides employees with the proper tools and knowledge to immediately begin cleaning up a spill.
 - Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.
 - BMP IC17 discusses Spill Prevention and Control in detail.
3. Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.
4. Use a training log or similar method to document training.

Stencil storm drains

Storm drain system signs act as highly visible source controls that are typically stenciled directly adjacent to storm drain inlets. Stencils should read "No Dumping Drains to Ocean".

References

California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook. Industrial and Commercial. 2003.
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Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities. Orange County Stormwater Program. Prepared by Watershed & Coastal Resources Division. January 2002. On-line:
http://www.ocwatersheds.com/PublicEducation/pe_brochures_carpet.asp

Orange County Stormwater Program. 2002. Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities. March.

For additional information contact:

City of Lake Forest
Public Works Department
25550 Commercentre Drive, Suite 100
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 461-3480

<http://www.lakeforestca.gov>